U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass. Ave., N.W., Rm. A3042
Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

A2

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: MIAMI, FLORIDA Date:

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Permanent Residence Pursuant to Section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act of November 2, 1966 (P.L. 89-732)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER: SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the District Director, Miami, Florida, who certified his decision to the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) for review. The District Director's decision will be affirmed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Peru who filed this application for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident under section 1 of the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA) of November 2, 1966. This Act provides, in pertinent part:

> [T]he status of any alien who is a native or citizen of Cuba and who has been inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States subsequent to January 1, 1959 and has been physically present in the United States for at least one year, may be adjusted by the Attorney General, (now the Secretary of Homeland Security, (Secretary)), in his discretion and under such regulations as he may prescribe, to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence if the alien makes an application for such adjustment, and the alien is eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is admissible to the United States for permanent residence. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to the spouse and child of any alien described in this subsection, regardless of their citizenship and place of birth, who are residing with such alien in the United States.

The District Director determined that the applicant was not eligible for adjustment of status as the child of a native or citizen of Cuba, pursuant to section 1 of the Act of November 2, 1966, because her father's marriage to her stepmother was entered into for the primary purpose of circumventing the immigration laws of the United States. *See District Director's Decision* dated April 5, 2004.

The record reflects that on June 10, 2002, at Coral Gables, Florida, the applicant' father married [redacted] a native and citizen of Cuba. Based on that marriage, on June 20, 2002, the applicant filed for adjustment of status under section 1 of the CAA.

On April 5, 2004, Ms. [redacted] executed a sworn statement in which she states that her marriage to the applicant's father was not valid. Ms. [redacted] further stated that she used to baby-sit the applicant and the applicant's father asked her to assist him and his children to obtain permanent resident status.

In addition on May 18, 2004, Ms. [redacted] submitted a letter stating that her marriage to the applicant's father was in order to assist the applicant obtain permanent resident status. A copy of a divorce decree issued by the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in and for Dade County, Florida was submitted which shows that the marriage between Ms. [redacted] and the applicant's father was terminated on April 28, 2004. Furthermore Ms. [redacted] presented a marriage certificate that shows she married her present spouse on May 6, 2004.

Although the provisions of section 1 of the Act are applicable to the spouse or child of an alien described in the Act, it has been held in *Matter of Bellido*, 12 I&N Dec. 369 (Reg. Comm. 1967), that an applicant who is not a native or citizen of Cuba and is not residing with the Cuban citizen spouse in the United States, is ineligible for adjustment of status pursuant to section 1 of the CAA.

The applicant is not a native or a citizen of Cuba, nor is she residing with her Cuban stepmother in the United States. She is, therefore, ineligible for adjustment of status pursuant to section 1 of the CAA. The applicant was offered an opportunity to submit evidence in opposition to the District Director's findings. No additional evidence has been entered into the record.

Pursuant to section 291 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that she is eligible for adjustment of status. She has failed to meet that burden.

The decision of the District Director to deny the application will be affirmed.

ORDER: The District Director's decision is affirmed.